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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

SWICKHAMER, CHRISTOPHER M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2662

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13

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/524,326

Applicant(s)

MORRIS, MARTIN

Examiner

Christopher M Swickhamer

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This Office Action is in response to the amendment filed 10/24/03. The Examiner approves the changes to the specification. Claims 1-16 are pending. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended. The declaration filed on 10/24/03 under 37 CFR 1.131 is sufficient to overcome the Aiello reference (USP 2002/0018458) for the claimed subject matter. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Haartsen (USP 6,590,928 B1). Currently no claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Haartsen (USP 6,590,928 B1).

- Referring to Claim 1, Haartsen discloses a method for communicating within a system including a master unit and one or more slave units (col. 12, lns. 29-31), said method comprising the steps of: assigning a master (member) address to a first slave unit (the master address identifies the master unit and is transmitted at the beginning of each slot, col. 12, lns. 15-7), said master (member) address corresponding to a selected time

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slot of a plurality of time slots defined by a system clock (col. 12, lns. 15-27), said time slots repeating in cycles; assigning to said first slave unit a first member (extended) address associated with an occurrence of said selected time slot within at least a selected one of said cycles (when the slave is polled by the master, the master uses the master address to identify the group, and the member address to identify the slave unit being polled); and transmitting information from said first slave unit to said master unit during said occurrence of said selected time slot (after being polled with the correct master and member addresses, the slave unit responds, col. 12, lns. 17-55).

- Referring to Claim 2, Haartsen discloses the method of claim 1 further including the step of assigning to a second slave unit said member address and a second extended address associated with a different occurrence of said selected time slot within one or more of said cycles, said second slave unit being disposed to transmit information during said different occurrence of said selected time slot (up to 8 slave units can be serviced at a time, col. 12, lns. 27-49).

- Referring to Claim 3, Haartsen discloses the method of claim 2 further including the step of determining whether less than a maximum permitted number of said slave units have been assigned to said member address, said maximum permitted number of slave units being determined by performing a division operation in which a bandwidth associated with said member address is divided by a bandwidth allocated to said first slave unit, said maximum permitted number of slave units being no greater than a quotient of said division operation (the bandwidth is divided by 8, so up to 8 slaves can be accommodated by the master unit, col. 12, lns. 28-49).

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- Referring to Claim 4, Haartsen discloses the method of claim 1 further including the step of polling said first slave unit during one of said plurality of time slots immediately preceding said occurrence of said selected time slot (col. 12, lns. 28-49).

- Referring to Claim 5, Haartsen discloses the method of claim 4 further including the step of polling a second slave unit during one of said plurality of time slots immediately preceding said different occurrence of said selected time slot (col. 12, lns. 28-49).

- Referring to Claim 6, Haartsen discloses the method of claim 1 further including the step of synchronizing said master unit, said first slave unit and said second slave unit to said system clock, a first member (extended) address and a second member (extended) address corresponding to first and second states of said system clock (col. 12, lns. 16-27, the member addresses identify when the slave unit is able to respond).

- Referring to Claim 7, Haartsen discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said step of assigning a master (member) address includes the step of determining whether a bandwidth associated with member (extended) addresses corresponding to said master (member) address is no less than a desired bandwidth of said first slave unit (the system can handle up to 8 users, if more than 8 devices are attempting to connect to the master device, the master has insufficient bandwidth to handle the additional unit, col. 12, lns. 45-50)

- Referring to Claim 8, Haartsen discloses the method of claim 1 further including the step of assigning a second master (member) address to a second slave unit, said second master (member) address corresponding to a different selected time slot of said

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plurality of time slots, said second slave being disposed to transmit information during each occurrence of said different selected time slot (col. 12, lns. 15-55).

- Referring to Claim 9, Haartsen discloses the method of claim 8 further including the step of assigning, to a third slave unit, said first master (member) address and a second member (extended) address associated with a different occurrence of said selected time slot within one or more of said cycles, said third slave unit being disposed to transmit information during said different occurrence of said selected time slot (col. 12, lns. 15-55).

- Referring to Claim 10, Haartsen discloses the method of claim 8 further including the step of polling said first slave unit during one of said plurality of time slots immediately preceding said occurrence of said selected time slot, and polling said second slave unit during the one of said plurality of time slots immediately preceding said different selected time slot (col. 12, lns. 28-49).

- Referring to Claim 11, Haartsen discloses a communication system in which a sequence of time slots repeats in cycles, said communication system comprising: a first slave unit; and a master unit, said master unit including: means for assigning a master (member) address to said first slave unit (col. 12, lns. 15-31), said master (member) address corresponding to a selected one of said sequence of time slots; means for assigning to said first slave unit a first member (extended) address associated with an occurrence of said selected one of said sequence of time slots within one or more of said cycles (col. 12, lns. 28-49), said first slave unit being disposed to transmit information during said occurrence of said selected one of said sequence of time slots (col. 12, lns. 35-39).

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- Referring to Claim 12, Haartsen discloses the communication system of claim 11 further including a second slave unit; said master unit including means for assigning to said second slave unit said master (member) address and a second member (extended) address associated with a different occurrence of said selected one of said sequence of time slots within one or more of said cycles, said second slave unit being disposed to transmit information during said different occurrence of said selected one of said sequence of time slots (col. 12, lns. 28-55).

- Referring to Claim 13, Haartsen discloses the communication system of claim 11 further including a second slave unit, said master unit including means for assigning a second master (member) address to said second slave unit, said second master (member) address corresponding to a different selected time slot of said sequence of time slots, said second slave unit being disposed to transmit information during each occurrence of said different selected time slot (col. 12, lns. 28-49).

- Referring to Claim 14, Haartsen discloses a communication system in which a master unit communicates with one or more slave units during a sequence of time slots repeating in cycles (col. 12, lns. 15-31), said master unit comprising: means for polling a first slave unit (col. 12, lns. 34-39); means for assigning a master (member) address to said first slave unit, said master (member) address corresponding to a selected one of said sequence of time slots (col. 12, lns. 15-27); and means for assigning to said first slave unit a first member (extended) address associated with an occurrence of said selected one of said sequence of time slots within one or more of said cycles, said first slave unit being disposed to transmit information during said occurrence of said selected one of said sequence of time slots (col. 12, lns. 15-55).

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- Referring to Claim 15, Haartsen discloses the master unit of claim 14 further including means for assigning to a second slave unit said master (member) address and a second member (extended) address associated with a different occurrence of said selected one of said sequence of time slots within one or more of said cycles wherein said second slave unit is disposed to transmit information during each occurrence of said selected one of said sequence of time slots (col. 12, lns. 28-50).

- Referring to Claim 16, Haartsen discloses the master unit of claim 14 further including means for assigning a second master (member) address to a second slave unit, said second master (member) address corresponding to a different selected time slot of said sequence of time slots wherein said second slave unit is disposed to transmit information during each occurrence of said different selected time slot (col. 12, lns. 15-55).

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher M Swickhamer whose telephone number is (703) 306.4820. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hassan Kizou can be reached on (703) 305-4744. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872.9314.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305.3900.

CMS

January 8, 2004



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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